

Mineral Industry Surveys

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ZINC IN MAY 2006

Domestic mine production (recoverable) of zinc in May 2006 was 54,300 metric tons (t), according to the U.S. Geological Survey. This was relatively unchanged when compared with production in April 2006 and an increase of about 2% compared with that in May 2005. Estimated smelter production in May of 19,100 t of refined zinc was slightly lower than that in April and about 20% lower than that in May of 2005. Apparent consumption of 95,800 t of zinc represented an increase of about 3% when compared with that in April and about 16% when compared with that in May of 2005.

The Platts Metals Week average price for North American Special High Grade Zinc for the month of May was 172.59 cents per pound, an increase of 16% from the April average price, and an increase of 185% from the May 2005 average price. The average London Metal Exchange Ltd. (LME) cash price for May increased to \$3,564.51 per metric ton of zinc,

about a 16% increase compared with the price in April and a 187% increase compared with the price in May 2005. During May, global LME zinc stocks dropped by 21,775 t to 236,875 t and were down by 156,675 t from yearend 2005 stocks.

The Defense National Stockpile Center aggregated cash disposal (sale) of zinc in May, under the monthly Basic Ordering Agreement DLA-Zinc-004, was approximately 4,941 t (4,950 short tons), with an approximate value of \$16.1 million (Defense National Stockpile Center, 2006).

Reference Cited

Defense National Stockpile Center, 2006, Stockpile announces zinc BOA sales for May 2006: Fort Belvoir, VA, Defense National Stockpile Center news release, June 5, 1 p.

TABLE 1
SALIENT ZINC STATISTICS¹

(Metric tons, unless otherwise specified)

	2005	2006			
	January- December	March	April	May	January- May
Production:					
Mine, zinc content of concentrate	748,000	63,900	56,800	56,400	292,000
Mine, recoverable zinc	720,000	61,500	54,200 ^r	54,300	280,000
Smelter, refined zinc ²	259,000	22,100 ^e	19,300 ^e	19,100 ^e	101,000 ^e
Consumption:					
Refined zinc, reported	405,000	34,800	34,000	33,100	171,000
Ores ^e (zinc content)	727	61	61	61	303
Zinc-base scrap ^e (zinc content)	191,000	15,900	15,900	15,900	79,400
Copper-base scrap ^e (zinc content)	176,000	14,700	14,700	14,700	73,400
Aluminum-and magnesium-base scrap ^e (zinc content)	1,430	120	120	120	598
Total ^e	774,000	65,500	64,800	63,800	325,000
Apparent consumption, metal ³	939,000	93,200	93,200 ^r	95,800 ⁴	450,000
Stocks of refined (slab) zinc, end of period:					
Producer ⁵	XX	6,580	7,150 ^e	6,300 ^e	XX
Consumer ⁶	XX	49,800	50,800	47,800	XX
Merchant	XX	10,200	10,200	10,200	XX
Total	XX	66,600	68,200	64,400	XX
Shipments of zinc metal from Government stockpile	20,400	1,720	2,810	301	7,250
Imports for consumption:					
Refined (slab) zinc	603,000	63,900	72,700	NA	265,000 ⁷
Oxide (gross weight)	103,000	16,900	13,400	NA	44,700 ⁷
Ore and concentrate (zinc content)	153,000	9,540	9,610	NA	32,900 ⁷
Exports:					
Refined (slab) zinc	782	545	95	NA	681 ⁷
Oxide (gross weight)	13,700	2,790	1,970	NA	8,430 ⁷
Ore and concentrate (zinc content)	776,000	17,200	23,000	NA	62,000 ⁷
Waste and scrap (gross weight)	50,500	5,640	4,570	NA	18,500 ⁷
Price:					
London Metal Exchange, average, dollars per metric ton	\$1,381.37	\$2,416.44	\$3,083.75	\$3,564.51	\$2,674.70
Platts Metals Week North American Special High Grade, average, cents per pound	67.14	116.80	148.56	172.59	129.15

^eEstimated. ^rRevised. NA Not available. XX Not applicable.

¹Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; except prices; may not add to totals shown.

²Includes zinc metal used to manufacture zinc oxide.

³Smelter production plus imports minus exports plus shipments from Government stockpile plus stock change.

⁴Data based on reported consumption, stocks, and estimated trade data.

⁵Data from U.S. Geological Survey and American Bureau of Metal Statistics.

⁶Includes an estimate for companies that report annually.

⁷Includes data through April only.

TABLE 2
REFINED ZINC PRODUCED IN THE UNITED STATES^{1,2}

(Metric tons)

Month	Beginning stocks ³	Production	Shipments	Ending stocks ³
2005:				
May	6,810	21,500	22,000	6,360
June	6,360	18,100	16,400	8,070
July	8,070	20,200	20,900	7,400
August	7,400	20,500	21,000	6,960
September	6,960	19,900	22,500	4,390
October	4,390	22,600	23,000	4,010
November	4,010	24,600	24,500	4,040
December	4,040	23,700	22,200	5,590
January-December	XX	259,000	258,000	XX
2006:				
January	5,590	21,200 ^e	20,100 ^e	6,750
February	6,750	19,000 ^e	20,200 ^e	5,530
March	5,530	22,100 ^e	21,100 ^e	6,580
April	6,580	19,300 ^e	18,800 ^e	7,150
May	7,150	19,100 ^e	19,900 ^e	6,300
January-May	XX	101,000 ^e	100,000 ^e	XX

^eEstimated. XX Not applicable.

¹Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

²Includes zinc metal used to manufacture zinc oxide.

³Includes stocks held at locations other than smelters.

Sources: U.S. Geological Survey and American Bureau of Metal Statistics.

TABLE 3
APPARENT CONSUMPTION OF REFINED ZINC ACCORDING TO INDUSTRY USE
AND PRODUCT¹

(Metric tons)

Industry and product	2005	2006			
	January- December ²	March	April ^r	May ²	January- May
Galvanizing:					
Sheet and strip	392,000	39,100	38,400	38,800	187,000
Other	121,000	13,000	13,100	13,800	62,100
Total	513,000	52,200	51,500	52,600	249,000
Brass and bronze	147,000	14,300	14,700	15,400	70,500
Zinc-base alloy	203,000	19,800	19,900	20,500	95,900
Other uses ³	76,900	6,900	7,100	7,200	34,600
Grand total	939,000	93,200	93,200	95,800	450,000

^rRevised.

¹Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

²Data based on reported consumption, stocks, and estimated trade data.

³Includes zinc used in making zinc dust, desilvering lead, powder, alloys, anodes, chemicals, castings, light metal alloys, rolled zinc, and miscellaneous uses not elsewhere specified.

TABLE 4
AVERAGE ZINC PRICES¹

Period	North American ¢/lb.	LME ² cash	
		¢/lb.	\$/t
2005:			
May	60.46	56.39	1,243.23
June	61.73	57.85	1,275.33
July	57.96	54.16	1,194.08
August	62.94	58.88	1,298.05
September	67.89	63.37	1,397.08
October	72.66	67.49	1,487.91
November	78.47	73.06	1,610.61
December	88.01	82.62	1,821.44
January-December	67.14	62.66	1,381.37
2006:			
January	100.96	94.80	2,089.92
February	106.84	100.65	2,218.90
March	116.80	109.61	2,416.44
April	148.56	139.88	3,083.75
May	172.59	161.68	3,564.51
January-May	129.15	121.32	2,674.70

¹Special High Grade.

²London Metal Exchange.

Source: Platts Metals Week.

TABLE 5
U.S. EXPORTS OF ZINC¹

Material	2005		2006 ²			
	Quantity (metric tons)	Value (thousands)	April		Year to date	
			Quantity (metric tons)	Value (thousands)	Quantity (metric tons)	Value (thousands)
Refined (slab) zinc	784	\$1,500	95	\$246	681	\$1,640
Ore and concentrate (zinc content)	786,000	477,000	23,000	19,400	62,000	38,600
Waste and scrap (gross weight)	56,000	62,000	4,570	6,490	18,500	25,700
Powders, flakes, dust (zinc content)	9,310	18,500	844	2,060	3,430	7,200
Oxide (gross weight)	14,600	23,600	1,970	2,980	8,430	12,900
Chloride (gross weight)	1,860	2,310	44	71	362	449
Sulfate (gross weight)	2,820	1,870	368	258	1,430	929
Compounds, other (gross weight)	1,130	887	34	146	89	257

¹Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits.

²Data for May 2006 were not available at time of publication.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.

TABLE 6
U.S. IMPORTS FOR CONSUMPTION OF ZINC¹

Material	2005		2006 ²			
			April		Year to date	
	Quantity (metric tons)	Value (thousands)	Quantity (metric tons)	Value (thousands)	Quantity (metric tons)	Value (thousands)
Refined (slab) zinc	668,000	\$875,000	72,700	\$128,000	265,000	\$449,000
Ore and concentrate (zinc content)	156,000	117,000	9,610	13,600	32,900	41,100
Waste and scrap (gross weight)	9,580	8,820	1,220	1,520	4,580	5,380
Powders, flakes, dust (zinc content)	23,400	46,000	1,940	5,570	8,560	23,000
Oxide (gross weight)	109,000	127,000	13,400	20,800	44,700	65,700
Chloride (gross weight)	723	1,250	141	274	249	451
Sulfate (gross weight)	31,100	16,600	2,920	1,860	16,300	9,440
Compounds, other (gross weight)	7,010	6,370	708	362	3,430	2,170

¹Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits.

²Data for May 2006 were not available at time of publication.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.

TABLE 7
SHIPMENTS OF ZINC METAL FROM THE NATIONAL
DEFENSE STOCKPILE¹

(Metric tons)

Period	Beginning inventory	Shipments	Ending inventory
2005:			
May	65,400	301	65,100
June	65,100	2,960	62,100
July	62,100	2,600	59,500
August	59,500	3,680	55,800
September	55,800	3,710	52,100
October	52,100	3,010	49,100
November	49,100	2,830	46,300
December	46,300	299	46,000
January-December	XX	20,400	XX
2006:			
January	46,000	1,890	44,100
February	44,100	526	43,600
March	43,600	1,720	41,900
April	41,900	2,810	39,000
May	39,000	301	38,700
January-May	XX	7,250	XX

XX Not applicable.

¹Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

Source: Defense Logistics Agency.

TABLE 8
U.S. IMPORTS OF ZINC, BY TYPE OF MATERIAL AND COUNTRY^{1,2}

(Metric tons)

Material and country	General imports			Imports for consumption		
	2005	2006		2005	2006	
		April	Year to date		April	Year to date
Ore and concentrate (zinc content):						
Australia	8,590	2,850	2,850	8,590	2,850	2,850
Ireland	13,000	4,210	8,470	13,000	4,210	8,470
Mexico	27,300	19	2,870	27,300	19	2,870
Peru	104,000	2,540	17,500	104,000	2,540	17,500
Other	2,900	--	1,180	2,900	--	1,180
Total	156,000	9,610	32,900	156,000	9,610	32,900
Blocks, pigs, or slab:						
Australia	1	--	--	24,600	1,330	14,700
Brazil	43,700	--	5,960	43,800	277	6,240
Canada	439,000	44,800	177,000	439,000	44,800	177,000
China	15	3	3	2,140	12,100	18,300
Japan	--	--	--	1,210	222	1,880
Kazakhstan	--	--	--	--	--	--
Korea, Republic of	5,030	--	--	8,710	6,100	21,600
Mexico	147,000	6,970	24,300	147,000	6,970	24,300
Norway	--	--	--	--	50	832
Peru	235	194	194	834	194	471
Other	1,320	--	--	1,770	--	--
Total	636,000	51,900	208,000	668,000	72,700	265,000
Dross, ashes, fume (zinc content)	15,800	1,310	6,980	15,800	1,310	6,980
Grand total	807,000	62,900	247,000	840,000	83,600	305,000
Oxide (gross weight):						
Canada	62,000	4,710	18,100	62,000	4,710	18,100
China	173	33	33	173	33	33
Italy	15,400	--	4,970	15,400	--	4,970
Japan	1,080	135	440	1,080	135	440
Mexico	24,100	2,970	10,900	24,100	2,970	10,900
Netherlands	4,450	1,470	2,120	4,450	1,470	2,120
Other	2,040	4,050	8,180	2,040	4,050	8,180
Total	109,000	13,400	44,700	109,000	13,400	44,700
Other (gross weight):						
Waste and scrap	9,580	1,220	4,580	9,580	1,220	4,580
Sheets	3,630	102	981	3,630	102	981
Powders, flakes, dust (zinc content)	23,400	1,940	8,560	23,400	1,940	8,560

-- Zero.

¹Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

²Data for May 2006 were not available at time of publication.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.